

less severe or important ones are discussed briefly but lucidly. Diseases of the air passages, of the heart, of the nervous system, of the genito-urinary apparatus and diseases of the blood are presented to the reader in a most satisfactory manner. In his preface Dr. Birk apologizes for the absence of a section on diseases of the skin, but as he treats these so efficiently under the general headings, a chapter would seem superfluous. As a whole, the book is very valuable to a physician, but because of its general avoidance of detail, it is probably less valuable to the medical student.

A. E. S.

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PLASTIC SURGERY OF THE FACE. By H. D. GILLIES, C.B.E., F.R.C.S., Major, R.A.M.C., Surgical Specialist to the Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, etc. Pp. 408; 844 illustrations. London: Oxford University Press, 1920.

At no one hospital of any of the allied forces was there such a rich mass of clinical material, nor were better facilities provided for the care of war injuries of the maxillofacial region, than at the Queen's Hospital, Sidcup. It was at this hospital that several of the more important advances in plastic methods were worked out and developed by Gillies and his colleagues. Among these may be mentioned the "tubed" pedicle flap, original with Gillies, the free epidermic inlay graft for replacing lost mucous membrane of the mouth, the epidermic "outlay" for reconstruction of eyelids, recognition of the necessity for an epithelial lining for rhinoplastic flaps. The superiority of the type of work being done at Sidcup was recognized by Surgeon-General Gorgas, who early in 1918, obtained permission to detail a number of American Army surgeons and dental surgeons as observers, and the knowledge gained there played an important part later in the facial restorations done on our own men.

The first thirty-four pages of the book are occupied with a consideration of the principles adopted by the author in plastic surgery of the face. The first principles governing the whole treatment of facial injuries are, diagnosis of the tissues involved, and replacement of all tissues as early as possible into their normal positions. Some valuable points are given in the formation of flaps to close defects. The question of anesthesia for these cases is taken up by Captain R. Wade, who prefers intratracheal ether or chloroform and oxygen through a nasal tube.

The greater portion of the book takes up in detail the repair of injuries of the various portions of the maxillofacial area, and consists largely of a description of individual cases. Almost every conceivable form of facial injury and its treatment is described and depicted in the illustrations. The diagrams of the operations

are particularly instructive. For restoration of missing portions of the mandible the writer prefers a graft from the crest of the ilium. Where the loss of bone includes the whole of the ascending ramus Gillies uses a piece of the seventh or eighth rib taken from the opposite side, including the costochondral junction and some of the cartilage. The maximum point of convexity forms a new angle of the mandible, while the ascending ramus is represented by that portion of costal cartilage which runs upward to the sternum. A false joint in the neighborhood of the glenoid fossa is made in this way, and a cosmetic and functional result thus accrues. A very important chapter deals with the prosthetic appliances, made by the dental surgeon, for maintaining the hard tissues in their correct alignment and for replacing those parts which cannot be restored by plastic surgery. The more important of these appliances include splints for fixation of fracture of the jaws and for supporting epithelial inlays, obturators for closing defects of the palate, nasal splints with dental fixation, as a support in rhinoplasty. In rhinoplasty, the Italian and French methods are discarded, in favor of either the Indian method or the horizontal forehead flap with superficial temporal pedicle. The final chapter points out the application of the experience gained in war injuries to the repair of facial deformity due to disease or injury incurred in civil life.

The book is the most complete that has been written upon this subject and one which no surgeon can afford to be without.

R. H. I.

#### DISEASES OF THE INTESTINE AND LOWER ALIMENTARY TRACT.

By ANTHONY BASSLER, M.D., Professor of Gastro-enterology, Fordham University Medical College and New York Polyclinic Medical School and Hospital; Visiting Physician, New York Polyclinic Hospital; Visiting Gastro-enterologist, People Hospital. Pp. 660; 154 illustrations. Philadelphia: F. A. Davis Company, 1920.

DR. BASSLER has followed, most logically and successfully, his book on *Diseases of the Stomach and Upper Alimentary Tract* with the present work on *Diseases of the Intestines and the Lower Alimentary Tract*. However, the present addition to his published studies of the gastro-intestinal tract does not seem quite as thorough or carefully presented as his earlier book. Briefly, the first six chapters of the book deal with gastro-intestinal anatomy, physiology, chemistry, roentgenology, as well as the history and examination of the patient. The succeeding chapters deal with the various abnormal conditions within the intestinal tract as well as the pathological processes in the intestines themselves. Probably the most elaborate discussion is that which deals with the question

of intestinal toxemia. To this subject are assigned many pages filled with rather complicated suggestions as to diagnosis and treatment. It is certainly an open question as to the exact role which putrefaction within the intestinal tract plays in the production of symptoms, and while it may be conceded that it has such a role; nevertheless, it is impossible to concede rather didactic statements which attempt to demonstrate the existence of the various types of bacteria that are responsible for these symptoms, and to acknowledge that the symptoms can be cured by the production of vaccines prepared from these organisms. So little is definitely known about the life cycle, the type, the saprophytism, and so on of the bacteria of the small intestines, that treatment with vaccines does not seem to be the scientific method of treatment, to say the least. Furthermore, in the hands of Dr. Bassler, it might be possible, by bacterial methods, to isolate the offending organisms, but certainly, the technic, as the author gives it, is so difficult and so complicated that it would be utterly impossible for the average man to carry through, and this, in spite of the fact that the book is dedicated to the "practitioners of medicine, the best friends of the human race." While it is true that differences of opinion may exist between the author and reviewer, a natural result in discussing such a complicated subject as autointoxication, nevertheless the reviewer feels that in other respects the volume should prove of value to those who are interested in the subject of enterology as well as to those who are engaged in ordinary practice. It seems a pity that the subject of enteroptosis is not included in this book because it is such an important disorder, and those who do not possess the author's volume on *Diseases of the Stomach* will be without a discussion of this interesting protean subject.

J. H. M., JR.

A PRACTICAL MEDICAL DICTIONARY. By THOMAS LATHROP STEDMAN, A.M., M.D., Editor of the *Twentieth Century Practice of Medicine*, of the *Reference Handbook of the Medical Sciences*, and of the *Medical Record*. 6th revised edition. Pp. 1131. New York: William Wood & Company, 1920.

THE sixth edition of Dr. Stedman's medical dictionary has been amplified by a large number of new words and new definitions, making the volume some twenty pages larger than the preceding edition. The reviewer had the pleasure of reviewing the fourth edition of this work, and all that he said at that time in commendation of the fourth edition holds for the present edition. A dictionary seems like a very dry and uninteresting compilation of words and definitions, yet truly no form of literary work requires more the scholarly pen of one, who, like Dr. Stedman, is versed in all the sciences, from paleontology to philology, from psychology to syndesmology.

J. H. M., JR.